

**House File 879 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 879

BY GAINES

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing that the United States history unit  
2 requirement under the state's educational standards must  
3 include instruction in African American history.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code  
2 2021, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Five units of the social studies including instruction  
4 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration  
5 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in  
6 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting  
7 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum  
8 of one-half unit of United States government and one unit of  
9 United States history. The one-half unit of United States  
10 government shall include the voting procedure as described in  
11 this lettered paragraph and [section 280.9A](#). The government  
12 instruction shall also include a study of the Constitution  
13 of the United States and the Bill of Rights contained in the  
14 Constitution and an assessment of a student's knowledge of the  
15 Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The unit of United States  
16 history shall include instruction in African American history.

17 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
18 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
19 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
20 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
21 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
22 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
23 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of  
24 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding  
25 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act  
26 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school  
27 districts.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 This bill requires that the unit of United States history,  
32 currently required under the state's educational standards,  
33 shall include instruction in African American history.

34 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
35 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of

H.F. 879

1 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
2 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
3 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
4 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
5 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
6 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
7 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
8 mandates included in the bill.